

REMARKS

The Examiner alleges that the primary references (Bonin and Sugahara) disclose all aspects of the invention except for the use of phosphate-based glass surfaces. The Examiner alleges that the Japanese abstract provides a suggestion to employ such glass surfaces in the methods of the primary references alone or in combination with each other and/or the other references cited.

However, the alleged suggestion does not exist. Even if the primary references did disclose all aspects of the invention other than the phosphate-based glass surfaces (not true), the Japanese reference would not suggest the employment of phosphate-based glass surfaces in such methods. The latter contains a generic disclosure that particular types of solutions can be sandwiched between inorganic glass sheets of essentially any nature, specifically reciting “silicate, borate, phosphate, chalcogenide, glass, etc.” Furthermore, the Japanese abstract employs a solidifying liquid layer between the glasses which is a mixture of unsaturated polyesters, photopolymerization initiators, photopolymerization inhibitors and coloring materials, the latter two being optional ingredients. Whatever relevance the Japanese sandwiching layer might have, in no way could it lead a skilled worker to employ the completely different types of layers of the primary references specifically in conjunction with phosphate-based glass substrates, as recited in the current claims. There has to be some motivation to change the references in the way required to arrive at the claimed subject matter. The Japanese reference provides no such motivation. The mere fact that one particular kind of layer can be employed in a wide variety of glass sandwiches, in no way would motivate a skilled worker to employ completely different kinds of layers precisely in phosphate-based glass composites. Thus, for this reason alone, the rejections are untenable.

Moreover, the Examiner ignores the details of the claimed process. The process is applied specifically to phosphate-based glasses in conjunction with particular kinds of layers. These provide for optical quality bonds between the phosphate-based glass layers. Such optical bonds are not the subject matter of any of the references. For this additional reason, the rejection must be withdrawn, i.e. all the references merely relate to non-analogous art, not dealing with the field of the invention.

Nevertheless, even if the references were analogous, they would not suggest optical quality bonds as producible with the claimed process. For example, Sugahara utilizes inorganic phosphate curing agents as a co-ingredient for water-dispersible silicate binders. The phosphate agents are in the form of “inorganic solid fine powders.” See the very passage cited by the examiner at col. 3, lines 42-50. The Bonin fireproofing gels have nothing to do with obtaining the kinds of bonds obtainable with the claimed process. They have to do with rendering laminated glasses fireproof, again, a non-analogous art. No motivation exists whatsoever to employ the fireproofing gels of Bonin et al. in conjunction with the specific phosphate-based glass surfaces recited in the claims of this application. The same, of course, as stated above, is also true with respect to Sugahara’s technology.

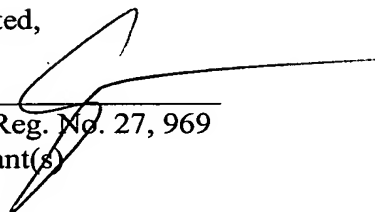
For the foregoing reasons, all prior art rejections can be seen to be untenable.

As soon as allowable subject matter is identified, applicants will file a terminal disclaimer.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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